

Community Development Commission

Mathew

January 11, 2005

To: Each Supervisor

From: Carlos Jackson, Executive Director

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE TVSM SHERIFF'S SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM
FROM DECEMBER 2003 THROUGH DECEMBER 2004**

On September 16, 2003, the Board of Supervisors approved the adoption of Amendment No.2 to the Three-Party Agreement between the County of Los Angeles, the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA), and the Superior Court of California-County of Los Angeles. Under Amendment No.2, a portion of the traffic school fee collected from traffic violators was allocated to the Housing Authority to continue the Traffic Violator School Monitoring (TVSM) Program and implement enhanced monitoring. This enhanced monitoring included the Sheriff's Services Pilot Program, in which the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) would provide monitoring and fraud investigation services to the TVSM Program.

Provided herein is an update on the Sheriff's Services Pilot Program and its impact in its first full year of operation:

During the first year of the program, a total of 21 cases were assigned to the LASD, with 16 of these cases forwarded by HACoLA and the remaining five initiated by the LASD. Of the nine cases closed in 2004, two resulted in criminal filing.

Cases Assigned	2003-2004 Totals
LASD Initiated	5
HACoLA Referred	16
Total Cases Assigned	21

Cases Closed (Results)	2003-2004 Totals
Criminal Filing	2
Administrative Follow-up by HACoLA	2
No Findings	5
Total Cases Closed	9

The LASD effectively enhanced TVSM's traffic school monitoring efforts by conducting 30 surveillances and five site/location surveys. In addition, the LASD made twenty attempts to purchase course completion certificates, or "controlled buys", from the traffic schools. From these attempts, 11 certificates were purchased.

Surveys and Surveillances	2003-2004 Totals
Site/Location Surveys	5
Surveillances	30

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<u>Controlled Buys</u>	<u>2003-2004 Totals</u>
Resulting in Purchase of Certificate	11
Not Resulting in Purchase of Certificate	9
Total Controlled Buys	20

Additionally, as a result of the enhanced investigation and law enforcement services afforded by the Sheriff's Services Pilot Program, four search warrants were served in 2004 and a total of six felony arrests were made for the illegal sale of traffic school completion certificates.

<u>Searches and Arrests</u>	<u>2003-2004 Totals</u>
Search Warrants	4
Felony Arrests	6

Outlook for CY 2005

The Sheriff's Services Pilot Program afforded to TVSM law enforcement and investigation capabilities previously not available. Through this program, TVSM has made significant progress in the effort of monitoring traffic schools, investigating suspected selling of traffic school completion certificates and stopping the fraudulent sale of certificates wherever it is found to be occurring.

Of the 11 "controlled buy" certificates purchased this year by the Sheriffs, nine of them were purchased from July 2004 through December 2004. This suggests to us that (1) the illegal sale of traffic school completion certificate continues and will continue and (2) a number of schools are still unaware of TVSM's new program with the Sheriffs.

It should be noted, however, that as a result of the effectiveness of the program, TVSM receives inquiries from traffic schools regarding our cooperation with the Sheriffs from time to time. While we do not disclose any details of past or current cases currently being investigated, it is clear that a number of traffic schools have become aware of the new law enforcement aspect to TVSM operations. Continuing to investigate and pursue cases of fraud with the addition of law enforcement, we feel that the Sheriff's Services Pilot Program will act as a disincentive to traffic school owners, operators and instructors thinking of engaging in fraudulent activity.

CJ:FM:jp

Attachment

- c. Each Deputy
Brenda Fraser, Sergeant, Los Angeles County Sheriffs
Zoe Venhuizen, Deputy Executive Officer, Los Angeles Superior Court
Bernadette Duncan, Traffic Administrator, Los Angeles Superior Court

Glossary of Terms

Cases Assigned:

LASD Initiated:	Cases assigned as a result of complaints sent directly to the Sheriffs or initiated as a result of Sheriffs investigation of a school.
HACoLA Initiated:	Cases referred to the Sheriffs by HACoLA.

Cases Closed:

Criminal Filing:	A case that results in criminal case filed with the Court.
Administrative Follow-up:	On LASD-initiated cases where a traffic school owner or traffic school staff has been found to commit an administrative violation but not a criminal violation, the Sheriffs will refer the case back to HACoLA for follow-up.
No Findings:	Cases closed when a Sheriffs investigation finds no evidence that the traffic school has engaged in criminal activity or has committed any administrative violation.
Site/Location Surveys:	A periodical general survey, usually conducted by driving by a traffic school location, to check/verify school location and open hours. Sheriffs may also survey a school to check for suspicious activity.
Surveillance:	More in-depth than a site/location survey, Sheriffs will conduct a surveillance on a schools suspected of fraudulent activity. Surveillances are conducted as a result of a previous site/location survey or as a result of referral from HACoLA.

Controlled Buys:

Attempts by undercover Sheriffs to purchase a completion certificate from a traffic school without requiring the undercover Sheriffs to sit-in and complete traffic school, as required by law.